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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted of 1992-93 graduates from Sinclair Community College, in Ohio, to determine graduates' perceptions of their experiences and benefits received while attending Sinclair, as well as information on graduates' current salaries. Questionnaires were mailed to the 1,298 graduates from the 1992-93 academic year, resulting in 348 completed surveys for a response rate of 26.8%. Study findings included the following: (1) 70.4% of the respondents were female, 9% were minority students, and the mean age was 33.3 years old; (2) 59.8% of the respondents had changed their major field of study and 41.4% finished in a different academic division; (3) 40.2% took more than 6 years to complete their degrees; (4) 50.2% gave a rating of 4 out of 5 to the quality of the education at Sinclair, while 42.6% gave a rating of 5 out of 5; (5) 96.2% agreed with the statement that their education at Sinclair contributed to an increase in self-confidence; (6) other commonly cited benefits were improved job performance (95.4% agreed), attained technical knowledge (94.3% agreed), improved communication skills (93.8% agreed), and increase value in the job market (92.9% agreed); (7) the least agreement was expressed regarding increased chances for promotion (17.3% disagreed) and increased earning power (16% disagreed) as a result of their education; (8) of the 207 graduates responding to the question, 97% stated that they would attend Sinclair again; and (9) for the 164 students who began working in their chosen field after graduation, the mean starting salary was $21,627, the mode was $30,000, the minimum earned was $5,923, and the maximum was $40,000. (KP)

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ED 375 901

1994 GRADUATE SURVEY

REPORT OF FINDINGS

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SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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LD 940 G18

GRADUATE SURVEY -1994
REPORT OF FINDINGS

PURPOSE OF STUDY

This survey of 1992-93 Sinclair graduates was conducted in order to discover the graduates' perceptions concerning benefits they felt they had received while attending Sinclair. The survey questioned them as to whether their educational experiences at Sinclair had contributed to their ability to function well in their workplace. It also queried them concerning the effects of their educational experiences on several facets of character development (such as creativity, self-reliance and leadership skills).

Graduates were also asked to provide salary information as a way to estimate earning potential overall and within degree specialties. Since this particular survey of graduates was created and distributed for the first time this year, no direct comparison data is available.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The one-page survey was placed on the back of a cover letter and mailed to all 1992-93 graduates (N = 1,298). A second mailing followed the first approximately four weeks later in order to maximize the response rate. There were 348 completed surveys returned for a response rate of 26.8%.

Student survey reponses were also matched to demographic and academic information found on Sinclair's student database in order to look at relevant characteristics of the respondents and to examine their responses in the light of those characteristics.

An examination of the demographic characteristics of the respondents showed that 70.4% were female and 29.6% were males. Respondents ranged in age from 20 to 86 years with a mean of 33.3 years. About 9% were minority students and 7.5% of the respondents were African American/Black. In the total group of graduates that year, 69.1% were female, 11.7% were minority students, and 8.9% were African American/Black.

At the time of graduation, the majority of respondents (62.2%) were enrolled part-time and 11.5% had received financial aid at some point in their academic career at Sinclair. The mean cumulative Grade Point Average for the group was 3.27 (just over a "B" average).

Between the time they entered and graduation, a large percentage of students (59.8%) changed their major field of study and 41.4% finished in a different academic division. The following table shows the distribution of respondents in each of the six academic divisions upon entering Sinclair and at the time of their graduation. Membership percentage for four of the six divisions increased. Allied Health Technologies gained by far the most students while the greatest movement out of a division was from the Liberal Arts & Sciences division.

DIVISIONAL DISTRIBUTION

Division	*Entrance*	*Graduation*	*Change*
Allied Health Technology	21.8%	34.2%	+12.4%
Business Technology	23.7%	28.4%	+ 4.7%
Ex.Learning & Human Service	7.4%	11.9%	+ 2.5%
Engineering Technology	12.0%	11.9%	- 0.1%
Fine & Performing Arts	3.7%	4.3%	+ 0.6%
Liberal Arts & Sciences	31.4%	9.3%	-22.1%

Technical degrees (AAS, AIS, ATS) were awarded to 68.1% of the respondents, non-technical degrees (AA, AS) were awarded to 23.9%, and 8% earned certificates.

The graduates also took varied amounts of time to complete their education at Sinclair. The number of years between their original start term and their term of graduation varied from 27 years to less than one year, with a mean of 7 years to complete a program of study at Sinclair. The following table shows a summary distribution of number of years to completion.

YEARS TO COMPLETION
1992-93 GRADUATES

TIME TO COMPLETE	*(N)*	*VALID %*
3 YEARS OR LESS	92	26.4%
4 TO 6 YEARS	116	33.3%
MORE THAN 6 YEARS	140	40.2%

ANALYSIS OF BENEFITS

Appendix A shows the overall distribution of respondent answers concerning benefits they might have experienced as a result of their attendance at Sinclair. For the most part, respondents agreed that they had received each of the benefits mentioned as can be seen from the low percentages in the *Disagree* columns and because the mean response for each benefit fell somewhere between *Agree* and *Stronly Agree*. A summary distribution found in Appendix B at the end of this report, collapses the two *agree* and the two *disagree* categories for clarity of interpretation.

Students were most likely to agree that their experiences at Sinclair had increased their self-confidence and improved their work performance. They were somewhat less likely to feel that those experiences had increased either their chances for a promotion or their earning power.

SINCLAIR QUALITY RATING

In addition to the analysis of benefits received, respondents were also asked to give a rating from 1 to 5 as to the overall quality of their educational experience at Sinclair. The response distribution for this question is presented below.

RATING	*(N)*	*PERCENT*
LOW (1, 2 or 3)	25	7.2%
MEDIUM (4)	173	50.2%
HIGH (5)	147	42.6%

The overall response to this item was very positive, with over 92% of the respondents assigning Sinclair a moderately high or very high rating for quality of education. Additional analyses were also performed to see if any student characteristics might influence the way they evaluated Sinclair as a whole.

The quality rating was first analyzed taking into account two student characteristics: 1) the academic division in which they were enrolled at the time of graduation; and 2) the type of degree they were awarded (technical, non-technical or certificate). A crosstabulation analysis showed that there were no significant differences in *either* divisional membership or type of degree as to how students rated the quality of education at Sinclair.

A regression analysis was performed next, in order to see if the way students responded to the 14 Benefit items could predict their overall quality evaluation. In addition to those items, cumulative grade point average and time it took each student to complete his or her education were also included in the regression.

All fourteen of the benefit items, as well as cumulative grade point average, were positively correlated with quality rating. **That is, those who agreed that they had received the stated benefits and those who tended to have higher grade point averages also rated the college as a whole more highly.** The length of time it took students to graduate was not significantly related to their evaluation of the college.

When all of the possible predictors were taken into account, three of the benefit items and cumulative grade point average emerged as the best predictors. ($R^2 = .30$, $p < .0001$). **Students who felt that they had learned teamwork, attained a stronger technical knowledge base, and become more creative were more likely to give Sinclair a positive overall evaluation.** Students who were academically successful, as defined by high grade point average, also appear to have retained a positive feeling about the quality of education they received at Sinclair.

ANNUAL SALARY

There were 164 respondents (47% of the total sample) who were willing to share information as to the starting annual salaries they received from employment in their chosen field after earning a degree from Sinclair. Salaries ranged from $5,923 to $40,000, with both the mean and median salaries falling near the $21,500 level. The chart below illustrates this salary information for the overall group and separately for the six academic divisions at Sinclair. **NOTE:** Since salary data was available for less than half of the respondents, the number of individuals in a given division might be insufficient for purposes of generalization.

ANNUAL STARTING SALARY

DIVISION	*(N)*	*MEAN*	*MODE*	*MINIMUM*	*MAXIMUM*
ALH	94	$24,626	$30,000	$5,923	$40,000
BUS	24	$17,325	$25,000	$9,900	$26,200
ELHS	15	$15,963	$17,000	$9,300	$24,000
ENGR	20	$19,804	$12,000	$12,000	$40,000
FPA	5	$13,184	$10,000	$10,000	$19,000
LAS	6	$19,123	$10,400	$10,400	$27,000
OVERALL	164	$21,627	$30,000	$5,923	$40,000

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

The survey presented respondents with two opportunities for suggestions and comments. One question asked whether they would attend Sinclair again, and why. The other question asked what Sinclair could have done better to help them achieve their educational goals.

Would you attend Sinclair again? Why?

There were 213 individuals who wrote responses to this query, of these, 207 (97%) indicated they would attend again. The open-ended responses can be categorized as follows:

WHY THEY WOULD RETURN	*Number*	*%*
Employment & Increased Earnings	10	4.8%
Location/Cost/Convenience	50	24.2%
Quality of Education/The Learning Environment/Faculty Attitudes	99	47.9%
Course Programming/Offering	15	7.2%
General Comments	33	15.9%

Frequently echoed phrases include: affordable; quality education; caring attitude; variety of subjects; small classes; excellent learning environment.

What could Sinclair do to improve?

While indeed, the respondents appear to be pleased with having attended Sinclair, several suggestions for improvement were noted (137). These responses can be categorized as follows:

NEEDED IMPROVEMENT	*Number*	*%*
Course/Curriculum Changes	27	19.7%
Teaching (how we teach)	29	21.2%
Faculty/Advisors/Services	42	30.7%
Transfering	13	9.5%
Specific Skills	3	2.2%
Course availability/Hours of Operation	21	15.3%
Addressing the Job Market	2	1.4%

Frequently cited themes include: the need for more evening hours; more 'real world' applications; need to increase the use of computers in coursework; increase the challenge of coursework; improve communication re: advising, and weed out poor instructors. Students were also interested in obtaining better information regarding career choices and employment opportunities. There was less concern with transferability than in the past, although it still remains a concern.

The reader is referred to the Appendix for actual student responses.

SURVEY OF RECENT GRADUATES NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS = 348

The purpose of this survey is to obtain your opinions relating to various aspects of your Sinclair experiences. Your responses will assist us with the continuous improvement of our programs and services.

Below is a list of some of the benefits you may have experienced as a result of your educational experience at Sinclair. Please indicate your level of agreement by checking the most appropriate response.

MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT SINCLAIR CONTRIBUTED TO MY ABILITY TO:

(N)		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	MEAN
321	a. Find employment in my chosen field	46.1%	42.1%	9.3%	2.5%	3.32
325	b. Increase my earning power	41.8%	42.2%	12.9%	3.1%	3.23
326	c. Improve my work performance	38.3%	57.1%	3.7%	0.9%	3.33
335	d. Become more valuable in the job market	47.5%	45.4%	6.0%	1.2%	3.39
333	e. Work as a team member	29.1%	61.6%	9.0%	0.3%	3.20
337	f. Improve my communication skills	40.9%	52.8%	5.6%	0.6%	3.34
330	g. Find a career path that I enjoy	38.2%	49.4%	11.2%	1.2%	3.24
334	h. Continue toward a higher degree	46.1%	46.1%	6.9%	0.9%	3.38
335	i. Increase my self confidence	47.5%	48.7%	3.3%	0.6%	3.43
333	j. Attain a stronger technical knowledge base	45.9%	48.3%	5.1%	0.6%	3.40
323	k. Increase my chances for a promotion	31.9%	50.8%	15.1%	2.2%	3.12
335	l. Improve my leadership abilities	31.0%	56.4%	11.9%	0.6%	3.18
337	m. Be more self-reliant	43.0%	49.9%	6.2%	0.9%	3.35
337	n. Solve problems logically	35.6%	55.2%	8.9%	0.3%	3.26
337	o. Be more creative	29.7%	58.2%	11.0%	1.2%	3.16

347 Please rate from 1 to 5 (with 1 being low quality and 5 being high quality) your perception of the quality of your educational experience at Sinclair? MEAN = 4.34; Median = 4; Mode = 4

What could Sinclair have done better to help you achieve your educational goals?

342 Would you attend Sinclair again if you could do it again? __ Yes __ No
Why? 98.2% 1.8%

IF you began employment **in your chosen field after earning your degree**, what was your starting annual salary? _____ (This information helps us advise students of what to anticipate earning as a result of a degree in your field).

(N = 164) MEAN = $21,627
MODE = $30,000
MINIMUM = $5,923
MAXIMUM = $40,000

APPENDIX B

SURVEY RESPONSES
1992-93 GRADUATES

MY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT SINCLAIR CONTRIBUTED TO MY ABILITY TO:	PERCENT AGREE	PERCENT DISAGREE
INCREASE MY SELF-CONFIDENCE	96.1	3.9
IMPROVE MY WORK PERFORMANCE	95.4	4.6
ATTAIN TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE	94.3	5.7
IMPROVE MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS	93.8	6.2
BECOME MORE VALUABLE IN JOB MARKET	92.9	7.1
BE MORE SELF-RELIANT	92.9	7.1
SOLVE PROBLEMS LOGICALLY	90.8	9.2
WORK AS A TEAM MEMBER	90.7	9.3
FIND EMPLOYMENT IN MY CHOSEN FIELD	88.2	11.8
BE MORE CREATIVE	87.9	12.1
FIND AN ENJOYABLE CAREER PATH	87.6	12.4
IMPROVE MY LEADERSHIP ABILITIES	87.5	12.5
INCREASE MY EARNING POWER	84.0	16.0
INCREASE MY CHANCES FOR PROMOTION	82.7	17.3

APPENDIX C

GRADUATE SURVEY- ONE YEAR POST GRADUATION /1994

WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

Yes:

Employment & Increased Earnings

I'm not working in my field yet, but after graduating, I went from making $7,000 annually to $24,000.

Able to complete a program and ready for a career in 2 years.

I received an excellent education at Sinclair. All jobs I applied for in the field, people were glad to know I graduated from Sinclair.

If I could have a good chance of employment after more study.

Got the job I wanted without attending the four year program.

I'm very pleased with SCC. They opened my eyes to a variety of fields of work.

I was already in chosen industry but 2 degrees earned helped greatly with advancement and earning potential.

I got the education that I needed in order to find employment in the area of interest that I was pursuing.

Two year degree added to my work experience to maintain current job assignment.

The Sinclair STEP II program provided me with the theoretical knowledge, practical training and recommendation that I needed to enter the tooling and machining industry.

GRADUATE SURVEY- ONE YEAR POST GRADUATION /1994

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WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

Yes:

Location, Cost & Convenience

Good reputation, low price, easy accessibility, parking.

Location, variety of classes, and cost (2)

I took courses all this past year. I think Sinclair offers great courses at a good price.

Education is at a good price--affordable.

Sinclair is affordable with quality education and a large choice of classes.

Price! (4)

Flexible schedule, easy access to campus, and inexpensive.

Economical, close and convenient

Personal interest class and low cost

Cost

Quality is very high for a very reasonable price.

Sinclair has a great faculty, nice campus, and most of all it is affordable.

Convenient, cost-effective, class schedules work well with my work schedule.

Convenience -(location), cost (reasonable rates), many grades transferable. I am currently attending Ohio University pursuing a degree in Industrial Engineering and Technology.

It's the best deal financially in town. Also, it's very accommodating to non-traditional students and their schedules. It's well respected, and facilities and staff are excellent.

Cheap

Very economical. Transferring to WSU to complete Bachelors with reduced overall cost.

Because the instruction is excellent and the cost is very affordable.

Affordable

Nearby

The best, most economical education available anywhere.

Location, Cost & Convenience (Continued)

Sinclair is convenient for me and reasonably priced.

Because of the value and the classes offered

Easy to get around campus, classes were easy to schedule (mail-in).

Because it was like you to say, "affordable education" and for me, centrally located.

Many reasons, (locations, evening and Saturday classes, cost). All were extremely beneficial.

Quality education for an affordable price

Cheap, convenient location, good teachers

Close to home, and very affordable

Low tuition fees

Affordable, close to home, variety of subjects to choose from, great PAC

Good education value for the money.

Reasonable cost, ease of transferring credits.

I really liked it, learned a lot and found it much cheaper than most other colleges.

Compared to some colleges, Sinclair is affordable.

Low cost, convenient location

Cost is affordable. Location is easily accessible.

It's affordable and a very good college.

Because I can't afford U.D. or W.S.U. The "system" would rather buy answering systems for students who are allotted more grant money than they need, than help someone who is trying to do it on their own instead of a free ride from other taxpayers.

The cost was within my budget and the classes were available in a variety of schedules to meet my busy schedule.

Sinclair offers quality education at a reasonable price.

I received a quality education at a price I could afford.

I think you supply quality education at a reasonable price.

Location, Cost & Convenience (Continued)

All of my general education requirements for my first two years transferred to WSU and I saved quite a bit of money, so I could afford the next two years.

Excellent education for minimal expenses!

Inexpensive and convenient to work and home.

Affordability

WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

Yes:

Quality of Education; the Learning Environment & Faculty Attitudes

Teachers can offer individualized attention because classes are small. I really learned and was able to go to WSU and continue my educational desires. Sinclair has given me the basis to continue my edition at WSU successfully.

Love the small campus, class size and location proximity above average; most of instructor exemplary.

Quality education, very affordable, smooth transition to Wright State.

Excellent program, knowledgeable teachers, good supports for learning/tutoring.

Very friendly, comfortable atmosphere. Didn't feel like an "outside member". Sinclair has a friendly, personable atmosphere.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending Sinclair. The teachers were fantastic, the people activities, curriculum, etc. were all outstanding.

Definitely. The School is well organized and the staff is wonderful.

Small classes, excellent instructors, excellent teaching

Sinclair was a great experience! The atmosphere is friendly. The staff and teachers helpful and caring. (Only one bad teacher).

TV Sinclair and correspondence courses are very helpful to working students.

Very supportive staff and teachers. They continue to write references for me, etc.

Good teachers

Great communication instructors, better/more attentive than those at WSU.

A positive atmosphere I was comfortable in.

The instructors were great, and were very caring.

Felt very comfortable attending this school.

Quality of Education; the Learning Environment & Faculty Attitudes (Continued)

The professors have field experience to validate their opinions, unlike Wright State Professors.

Teachers really want you to learn. They take a personal interest in each student. I did not have a bad classroom experience.

The instruction is excellent.

Sinclair is a first-rate college. I attended two universities prior to attending Sinclair and noticed how the other universities really only wanted your money not to give you a valuable education.

Sinclair cares about it's students.

Sinclair possesses the facilities for one to excel if he or she has sufficient time to allocate.

Good professors (most know from hands-on-experience)

I think it was the most applicable and intense education I've ever experienced.

It is a very good school or college.

Quality education, concerned, reliable, top notch instructors

I appreciated the Math Lab & Michelle.

I feel Sinclair has a caring attitude and most staff members have helped me with scheduling of other considerations when needed.

Excellent teachers!

Personal attention, great education, skilled teachers.

I really enjoyed my time while attending Sinclair. The instructors cared about the students and the students' futures.

I have attended a least one or more classes in a science-related course at Wright State and University of Dayton and find Sinclair better or equal in quality for a much cheaper price.

In fact, I've earned two Associate Degrees in a 6 yr. period, and in the summer quarter, I plan to take an additional class or two.

I felt that the instructors were intelligent, academically and practically, and they cared about me doing well.

Because I feel that I can learn more from listening to professors that have actually worked in their field.

Quality of Education: the Learning Environment & Faculty Attitudes (Continued)

Less threatening in returning to school than 4-yr. school.

The small classes and enthusiastic faculty made a wonderful learning environment for me.

Because it is a great school, and I really liked my teachers.

Small classes

I had nothing but positive experiences at Sinclair. I had attended Ohio State and dropped out primarily due to the impersonal approach to learning.

My classes (at Sinclair) were more difficult and disciplined than those at U.D.

Teachers for the most part are exceptional and very student-oriented. Sometimes though, because there were so many students in the Nursing program, I felt much effort was put into "weeding" us out!

Sinclair has a great faculty, nice campus, and most of all it is affordable.

The education is top rate and diverse.

Low cost, high quality education, flexible schedules, friendly environment, staff and teachers care for students.

A good quality education

Excellent nursing program, low-cost

Quality education, inexpensive, diverse student group, highly personable and helpful instructors

Convenience of class schedules, quality education, and excellent quality staff

A lot of excellent teachers (Chadwick, Mitchner, Carranza, Wilson, MacClennan, Cundiff, Stebbins, Atkinson, Burke, Trent); availability of any extra help/tutors if needed.

Excellent teachers, easy registration, friendly and helpful guidance, convenience (location), availability of classes.

Teaching staff down to janitorial go the extra mile for students.

Excellent teaching staff

The classes are small and the teachers really care about the students and they make learning fun.

Terrific staff, affordable education

Most instructors were knowledgeable of their given field.

Quality of Education; the Learning Environment & Faculty Attitudes (Continued)

Quality of teachers was great!

Sinclair is small enough that you get a lot of one-on-one help.

I feel they, teachers and staff, went out of their way to be helpful and supportive.

Quality education

Quality education and affordable too

It is a very good technical school.

Sinclair has a solid educational program. All of my professors demanded excellence. I also prefer the small classrooms vs. University size.

The professors I have encountered are excellent. The service at Sinclair is excellent. There are so many services available for any problem a student may have.

I was comfortable at Sinclair. I am a non-traditional student. If I had to attend Wright State starting back to college, I might not have continued.

Basically, I got the equivalent of a Liberal Arts education. You should study the classes/environment at WSU. You have a fairly good two-year school, however, it could be improved.

Wonderful instructors in the Dental Hygiene Dept.

In the ADN program the experience was well rounded. After talking with students in other local and Indiana programs, Sinclair's preceptor quarter became even more valuable in starting my RN career.

I feel Sinclair provides quality instructors and tries to offer instruction that is up-to-date.

It is a very enjoyable environment.

If I had to take some classes to further advance me, I would not hesitate.

Very good instructors

Some of your classes are above what is required for associate degree and can be used in a four year program.

Fast 2-year degree, personal attention, wonderful instructors- especially Dr. Farrier, Dr. Klopfenstein, and Mr. Keyes. Now I'm pursuing my four-year degree at slower pace while my employer pays my way.

A great place to regroup after a not so good university beginning.

I can take classes that will transfer to a four-year degree.

The friendly caring atmosphere was a benefit to me.

In my deepest sense, the quality of the academic environment and faculty at Sinclair are exceptional. My education has enriched my whole life.

It is a great way to get your first two years of college out of the way. Many of the instructors were very knowledgeable and personable. That is sometimes rare to find. Because of Sinclair, I am now on my way to graduating from Ohio University. I also have the possibility of graduating with honors, which is something I did not think I could achieve. I owe most of my college achievements to Sinclair. It allowed me to focus and gain confidence.

Because I enjoyed attending Sinclair. I like the professors, especially Mrs. Govan and Mrs. Chadwick for all of their help and it was very affordable.

Found instructors to be excellent, very helpful.

Great professors

I was extremely impressed with the Legal Assisting Program. I would assume other programs are of the same caliber.

The instructors are fantastic. Without good instructors a school is nothing. Sinclair has instructors who know their subjects and really want to reach; the instructors care about the students.

Dedicated teachers who care about their students

Good location, small classes, nice colleagues, helpful Nursing lab

For the most part good/helpful teachers

Better than Wright State

Liked learning atmosphere--geared towards persons working, rather thank full time student.

The ECE Program is excellent.

Teachers were very good--had a very good experience at Sinclair.

Because the attitude of the student population is more positive because they are thinking more realistically. Where as, Miami University, the Oxford campus, you're just a number to them. The staff doesn't care they just want your money. The students at M.U. area arrogant and think to idealistically.

I enjoyed the help of the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Clifford Barr, and enjoyed the classes as well as other instructors.

Quality of Education: the Learning Environment & Faculty Attitudes (Continued)

Convenience, cost and the opportunity to be educated again by your wonderful (qualified) instructors.

I know I received an excellent education.

Smaller class size--more teacher/student interaction.

Like smaller classes and personal attention.

I liked the size of the classes. The teachers and the amount of learning per class. I never felt overwhelmed.

I appreciated the small size of classes. For the most part, good rapport with instructors, and options to fit my particular needs.

The classes are smaller and more personal. I felt more like a person and not a number.

WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

Yes:

Course & Program Offerings / Variety of Instruction / The Classroom

Extensive course availability, evenings, main campus and neighborhood centers

I am interested in any learning experience in the area of my interests. The diversity of Sinclair offers something to almost anyone.

The selection of classes and subjects is very good.

Variety of subjects to choose from; great PAC

Two-year degree in ECE not available in other institutions.

Good clinical experience and classroom education, and small classes

I liked the classroom atmosphere as opposed to larger universities.

I like the school and think they have good programs.

Wide variety of courses

Small, individual-basis learning--75% of my classes

It is a good stepping stone in higher education. The only thing I would have done different is I would have taken the college parallel courses.

I liked knowing what to expect. Most teachers were up front about requirements and goals.

For my field of work-printing/graphics it has outstanding facilities.

Class availability (day, night, video)

There are numerous programs and courses to choose from.

WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

Yes:

General Comments

Yes. I need more computer training. In fact, I have attended Sinclair since graduating, for a computer course.

I still do attend. (2)

It was an excellent all around experience.

Very positive experience.

I strongly recommended Sinclair to other friends and family.

I enjoyed my experience.

I found the experience enjoyable.

Low cost, good education, and high pay in job.

To keep my knowledge updated and for further education.

If it became a four-year college or if you gave more money to Criminal Justice Department.

I am currently attending Sinclair to finish those courses I need to attend the University of Dayton.

Make it a four year school.

Yes. I would choose a different major.

To continue taking some generals for my four-year degree.

Because all and all it is a very good school.

I would like to keep up-to-date on all computer software.

To pick up some classes on family counseling and self empowerment, etc.

I am right now full time in 2+2 (education). Laid off from my job after 15 mos. and became my employer.

In fact, I aim this summer to take a Communication class.

General Comments (Continued)

I am now going to school to change my work I am in. I have a goal now to get a B.S.

I have returned to Sinclair for a different degree.

To advance my technical skills by earning a further degree in Radiology Technology such as CT Scan, MRI, or Ultrasound Technology, so it will be easier to obtain a job in my profession.

Because I am now.

I need to keep up my Pre-Kindergarten certificate which means I must continue to take new classes.

Because I changed careers and am going back for an AAS in PTA.

I like Sinclair, it's great.

Currently enrolled.

I have taken additional hours as the education is equal with any, it is very affordable, and the location is convenient.

The Administration is a lot better than big Universities.

No bureaucratic, complicated red tape in registering--it is simple, efficient, and response time is quick. Phi Theta Kappa--great comraderie support. A vehicle for growing and giving back to a community that deserves service from its college body that gets so much from its community. College schedule that is flexible for its full time employed students. Good food in the cafeteria. Supportive staff in the Career Center--I could go on and on.

I am an 85 year old and been retired for 31 years. I signed up for another degree at Wright State after graduating last year from Sinclair. I had all my books, and went only two weeks when I became ill and had to drop out. I miss Sinclair, it was 8 years of a wonderful experience for me. I will never forget it.

Because it has a lot to offer at a low cost, I would attend Sinclair again. Many services like special labs (BIOSIS) and free tutoring are not available or are at a cost at other institutions. In addition, Sinclair is easily accessible to me. I can get there in a few minutes. Also, I would have to say I would attend Sinclair again because of largely small classrooms. I now attend Wright State and miss all of the above and more. Overall, I would attend Sinclair again if I could because it was a positive experience and I love Sinclair.

WOULD YOU ATTEND SINCLAIR AGAIN IF YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN? WHY?

No:

I enjoyed Sinclair but I would have liked to go live on campus and not work while attending college.

When I started Sinclair in 1987 it was a good school, and I felt like I mattered. It's too big now and students are not treated as if they're important. But the place I work, many do not have degrees and I've found my degree wasn't necessary for this job.

My main field of interest is animals.

The parking was terrible. I didn't like the lottery for Nursing classes. There was no way to plan ahead, if you got some class you had a conflict with, you were just out of luck!

I don't know. I would check out other training and other colleges first before deciding.

Possibly.

WHAT COULD SINCLAIR HAVE DONE BETTER TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS?

Course changes:

They could have given us some practical training in estimating, measuring and completing window treatments, carpeting, etc.

Provide more/better learning materials for PTA program. Often many of us huddled around one small model or brochure at a time trying to study it. Replace instructor generated packets with understandable textbooks.

I graduated from the nursing program. Concentration of the areas of Critical Care and Public Health would be very beneficial.

I am an MIS major, more and better courses that relate to my field of study. Your two-year transfer program was accepted at WSU, but would do little toward gaining meaningful employment.

The build up knowledge to get me to a professional level in the Medical office was very good, but I could have used more time doing the final more complex work.

Less hours of clinical experience in LPN to RN education. People who are LPN's to begin with have much clinical time but not as much class time.

More experience in outpatient (other than hospital).

I have received a small promotion and raise at my current place of employment. Part of the reason was because I was not "afraid" of computers. The other reasons were reliability and dependability. The job is in marketing!

The quality of safety classes were not that great. The fire classes were much better.

Leadership courses, study courses

More clinical experience, more science

The Nursing program needed to focus at some time on critical care and involve this more in their nursing clinicals.

Spend more time learning computer skills, developing control plans, process flow diagrams, FMEA, and DOE. I learned the above on the job.

Maybe require more computer courses

Have the Nursing program more clinically oriented.

Course changes: (Continued)

More computer classes in curriculum

More lab work

Re-evaluate the technical courses to make them more practical for the "Real World".

I completed a MET degree. If Sinclair would have focused more strongly in class pertaining to Mechanical Design it would have helped.

Accounting that was real world stuff. More hands on for my business classes.

Employability stepped up in the Step II program to include more advanced skills in CWC programming.

Science program A & P 121, 122 could be differently taught.

More classes in Hotel Mgt. within the Hospitality Mgt. Program.

The ECE Dept. could have given a broader experience base of different types of child care.

Make my program (Step II) longer.

Use ungroplics to teach CAD/CAM.

Teach troubleshooting, and advanced transformer theory.

Teaching:

Now that I'm at Antioch, I like that style better than lectures and tests. I'll bet I will forget it.

More practical administrative experience

More independent clinical practice

Students without ability slow down progress of entire class.
Instructors are inclined to tailor the course for the slow learner. This reduces quality and potential achievement of the class.

Evening classes should be more structured for the working individual and less towards the immature student.

Everything seemed always rush, rush and many projects lacked sufficient time to complete and understand.

Relate educational goals more closely with job market skills.

Have more state-of-the-art technology in the Art Department.

Somehow put more computer use and training in all courses. Computers seem to be appearing everywhere.

Sinclair should look at students who have full-time long term employment differently from a student seeing entry into job field. Rather than have adults complete AAS degree programs--a program which allows ready movement into a 4-year school should be adopted.

Better "guidance" structured labs. I majored in Science and enrolled in all Science classes from BIO to CHEM to Physics to (etc.) The labs never seemed to be instructed, just monitored. Most lab professors just sat around and ignored our valuable questions. The labs always pulled my grade down.

More in-depth technical instruction. Instead of combining some areas of technical knowledge into one class, keep these areas separate and more intense.

Compared to larger university, General Education courses are much easier.

Stress the importance of your clinical experience. It seemed we were pulled out for other classes an awful lot.

Give more real work experiences.

I would have appreciated having my 12 years in my chosen field acknowledged and more credit given on those years/experience. I had a bad experience with an instructor (the whole class had a problem, but we were ignored and treated like little children.

More inservices with specialty fields, expertise

Teaching: (Continued)

It could have been more challenging.

Be more supportive of the students. Teachers need to adhere to the same rules of respect as the students are expected to show.
Sinclair provided a well-rounded education but the legal professionals see us as non-professionals.

The student to faculty ratio has gotten too large.

Not being hypocritical, and allowed more latitude for full time working students.

Sinclair needs to focus more attention to essay writing on test. Essay writing is essential in higher-educational goals; therefore, it must be important to make Sinclair students aware of this.

Teach more about real world situations rather than going straight from the text, which most teacher did.

Sinclair could have had a system whereby if a student did poorly in required course(s) for a major that would be addressed. Sinclair would have standards that would turn an person out of his/her major if need be.

Needed a better student teaching to help out at the end of the program.

Treat me more like an adult with responsibilities. Allow me to be more creative. I thought the program was very degrading to certain individuals.

A more integrated career development program; non traditional, more global, the future is to work out of your home via P.C. The business world has changed dramatically and the education programs need a revolution in the practices.

Improve ways of testing--those of us that have been in the work world have become more logical or more creative over the years. T & F and multiple choice are not the best ways of testing.

Could have prepared me a little more realistically . (It's still a shock to have 2 patients as a student and 32 as an RN.)

Faculty / Advising / Student Services:

Communications teachers were great, however the Legal Assisting teachers were not compassionate, understanding, and lacked "people skills". They often played "favorites". However, seeking help from the Dean doesn't resolve problems of others and myself. We found it wasn't worth the hassle or lower grades.

More time and money spent on the guidance department. I truly feel that this is one area where Sinclair needs to improve.

Provide better communication between counselors and instructors with students.

Better, more responsive counselors, more personal/attention, and better part-time teachers.

Perhaps more explicit counseling on what classes to take to get a better jump on my 4-year degree in education.

Better organize and offer more positions and placement assistance in the Nursing program.

Have more detailed descriptions of the course and background of faculty.

Get better instructors and have them evaluated more frequently.

Counselor's could be nicer when asking questions. Co-operative and career planning and placement people were nicer and more willing to help.

Don't have teachers involve in too many other activities to the point where they could care less about teaching, as in Dr. xxx, Soil Mechanics Professor.

We were never asked to fill out an evaluation form (by the college). I think this should be done more regularly and forms should be distributed and collected by personnel not connected with the program.

Some of the instructors did not seem properly educated.

I think some of the part-time instructors could have been a little better--particularly computers.

Different and up-to-date teacher for the Draft & Design.

Make it easier to meet with counselor.

Weed out ineffective, boring teachers by using student evaluations of classes as well as teaching peer evaluations. More flexibility in scheduling student teaching. More evening and Saturday classes in ECE.

Make sure most of the students area taking the right classes. I took a Physics that did not transfer, so I had to take a higher Physics.

Check on teachers who had trouble coming down to student level.

Faculty / Advising / Student Services: (Continued)

Help decide a career path.

Some part-time instructors have the technical knowledge yet lack strong teaching skills.

Some of my instructors did not appear (seem to be) qualified. They were not able to answer questions or stretch minds.

Counselors need to be more accessible and need more help in Financial Aid office.

Mandate that all first year students see their career counselors at least once per quarter.

My academic counselor was not good and very frustrating and difficult to work with. Her poor guidance has been personally costly to me.

Been helpful earlier in contacting me after I registered at the Career Placement Center for employer interviews on campus.

Nursing program is very large--initial entry was complicated. I was told different requirements by different counselors.

I had an instructor who dropped my grade a full letter grade with no justification (his boss agreed it was wrong) but no one would help me. The time I spent going to the dean was a complete waste of time. The instructor was XXXX. When I was insistent he justify the lower grade, he said he decided to retain it "due to your perfectionism and drive"!!! Other MHT women have had similar problems with him. He will one day cause Sinclair MAJOR trouble if he continues to manipulate and dominate the "over 30 aged female students. Thanks for the opportunity to "vent". I hold no hope anything will be done about this. The "good ol' boy" system is too strong.

The Career Planning & Placement Center was not helpful. They are very disorganized. I usually received information by mail or phone the day before meetings with prospective employers. How am I supposed to get off work when I am only given 12-15 hours notice. Another time I came in the door after work to a ringing phone. Margaret wanted to know if I was going to be at a meeting that I had received information about in the mail. I told her I had no idea there was a meeting. When I opened my mail the information was there. It has been postmarked the previous day. Sinclair also leads people to believe you can be more marketable with an associates degree. Every interview I have been to, the employers have told me that I needed a bachelors degree.

Re-organize the admission process.

Better handled parking. Many people were late to class--no spaces!

Sinclair could have given me more information on my chosen field and could of had better prepared instructors.

Better explain what I was getting into and what other options for jobs and schooling there was.

Faculty / Advising / Student Services: (Continued)

Financial support--I had good grades but was denied a Sinclair scholarship because I had a part time job.

Help with job placement in the field of Radiology Technology or assistance.

It would have been nice to have a job fair every quarter or at least two times a year.

Make sure counselors know what is really going on--I was steered wrong once. Try to parallel with more Universities, ie., Finley opening a program in my career field to receive B.S.

Each student should have one or two counselors at the most to advise on what classes a student needs. Some of them need to be better listeners too!

Don't let teachers with accents teach difficult subjects--make them take speech class.

Work more closely with WPAFB to obtain placement of students.

Provide more of an in-depth training program for student officers.

More preparation for the job search.

Have more educational and potential employment contacts in my field through your job placement services.

Transferability:

Transfer credit guidance

Council new students more toward a transferable degree/classes.

My only complaint would be the lack of cooperation between Sinclair and Wright State in letting me know of course equivalences to transfer credits.

I wish that more of my credits would have transferred to my four-year degree at U.D.

Offer a day when 4 year schools come and talk to us about what will transfer from Sinclair, etc.

Classifying my waivered hours (technical from 2-yr. hospital based radiological program) on my transcript in an understandable manner. No four year program will accept my associate degree and it's standards.

I think Sinclair prepares you for your job but to go higher in nursing you need a Bachelors degree as well as on the job experience.

Made me aware of the fact that an Associate degree isn't really what it takes to get high pay rates. Most companies want people with Bachelor's or higher.

You could have better directed me in choosing classes that were transferable to 4-year colleges.

Offer a parallel program with Ohio State and other non-regional state colleges.

Set up a program with Ohio State University (a parallel program).

Recommend the University Parallel Program.

In the area of university transfer credits to a four-year college, make certain the coursework is equivalent.

Specific Skills:

Interviewing skills are necessary. I understand such a class is offered now.

Somehow put more computer use and training in all courses. Computers seem to be appearing everywhere.

Make it required to be working or at least make one credit a required internship.

Course availability/ hours of operation:

The pre-requisites I needed to complete my degree were not available in Fall 93 or Winter 94.

Offer more classes at night and more frequently for the second year of the STEP II program.

Offer evening classes for PSY and OB.

I wanted to take Intro to Earth Science and it was never offered on any day but Saturday.

Have more sections of the classes offered.

Not cancel so many evening classes due to low enrollment.

I think S.L. chair should offer more of the technical classes for Allied Health programs in the evening.

Improve coordination between departments regarding scheduling of classes. Required non-OTA specific classes.

Offer more classes.

Provide more courses of Dentistry in Dental Hygiene curriculum.

Offered more variety of classes at the off-site centers.

Offered more night classes. (2)

Offer more classes at more convenient times for us working people.

More available classes. I changed my major to Nursing and had planned to attend Sinclair, but the waiting list was too long. Thus I am at KCMA Nursing program.

Add more TV Sinclair and correspondence courses and more Tuesday/Thursday classes. I think working students prefer to come in a 2x a week rather than 3.

Offer more courses in the evening for those who must work in the day.

Have the curriculum/major I really wanted, which was Veterinary Medicine.

I would have benefited from more OIS labs being open at more convenient times.

Computer Lab Assistants with more experience in all software packages and the labs being available more often.

Some of the classes were not offered at times when working people could take them. Would help if advisors would let student know ahead of time when classes are only offered once a year.

Offered more variety in clinicals.

Job Market:

The job market is saturated with two-year degrees in law enforcement, it's just difficult to find a job in this particular field.

I changed to being a Geology major. My degree is in communications, but many people are flooding the market in that major. It took one year of Desk Top Publishing to find that no one in the field wants to pay any good amount of money.

Change Status:

They could become a four-year college! (10)

I would have liked to get my BA from Sinclair, but I know that's not possible.

I just wish it was a 4-year institution. I value my AAS more than anything else I've achieved.

No change/praise

Sinclair did a great job!

I can't think of anything. (5)

Nothing. I marked a, b, d, and k as strongly disagree only because my job was eliminated shortly after I graduated and I have been unable to find employment since then.

Nothing, My goals were achieved.

Sinclair is a terrific institution!

Everything was very adequate.

Completely happy

I was very pleased with Sinclair's program.

I don't know how you could improve any more.

I am very satisfied with Sinclair's Nursing program. I can't think of any way to improve.

Nothing really, I'm very pleased with SCC. They opened my eyes to a variety of fields of work.

No change/praise (Continued)

Sinclair was wonderful to me! They, were supportive and I had an easy time of transferring to U.D.

Instructors were wonderful for the most part!

My goals were achieved.

Not a thing. Clinical and classroom experience was above my expectations.

I am completely satisfied with my education at Sinclair. Please understand that I am 46 years of age and probably attained my salary potential. I completed my degree at Sinclair to make myself more marketable in the job market.

Nothing--keep up the good work! Meridith Rainey was especially helpful in completing my degree--I owe her one.

Nothing, as long as there is one on one basis between teacher and student.

Nothing really. People were always available to help where needed.

Sinclair has a lot of plus compared to Wright State.

I attended Sinclair for nine years and I have no complaints.

Not much, Sinclair has a great faculty--student relationship, you can't find this at any large college.

Nothing. The service classes, and teachers were perfect in helping me reach my goals.

My field was Industrial Eng., and all of the related classes were excellent.

I was satisfied with all aspects of Sinclair in my field of study.
Can't think of anything.

Nothing. The school should just continue to grow and proceed in the same inclusive and progressive manner.

Nothing. Sinclair was great for me.